

CLAIMS:

- 1 The use of p-menthane-3,8-diol (PMD) as an antiseptic, antibiotic, fungicide or bactericide.
- 2 The use of PMD according to claim 1, as an antiseptic against strains of *Staph. aureus*.
- 3 The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the PMD is a crude or purified natural product.
- 4 The use according to claim 3, wherein the PMD is in the form of a PMD-rich extract from lemon eucalyptus oil.
- 5 The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the PMD is in the form of a mixture of isomers thereof.
- 6 An antiseptic, antibiotic, fungicidal or bactericidal composition which comprises PMD and a carrier therefor.
- 7 A composition according to claim 6, wherein the carrier is an oil or an organic solvent.
- 8 A composition according to claim 7, wherein the carrier is a mixture of water and an organic solvent miscible therewith.
- 9 A composition according to claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein the PMD is as defined in any of claims 3, 4 and 5.

10 A composition according to claim 6, 7, 8 or 9 which is a household detergent, cleansing or cream composition.

11 A composition according to claim 6, 7, 8 or 9, which is in a form suitable for medical use.

12 A composition according to claim 11, which is in the form of a throat lozenge or pastille, a shampoo, a skin spray, a nasal spray, or in a form for wound irrigation.

13 A method of sanitizing a surface which comprises applying PMD thereto.

14 A method according to claim 13, wherein a composition as claimed in any of claims 6 to 11 is applied to the surface.

15 A method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the PMD or PMD composition is applied by spraying.

16 A method according to claim 13, wherein the PMD or PMD composition is applied by electrostatic deposition.

17 A method according to claim 13, wherein the surface is of a human hand or of a glove therefor.

18 An article which contains or comprises PMD such that, in use of the article for its intended purpose, the PMD provides an antiseptic, antibiotic, fungicidal or bactericidal effect.

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19 An article according to claim 18, which comprises a fabric impregnated with PMD, or a plastics article impregnated with PMD.

20 The use of PMD for application to a surface to sanitise the surface by virtue of its antiseptic properties.

21 The use according to claim 20, where the surface is on the wall, floor, ceiling or other structural part of a room or building; or an equipment or apparatus; or is a work surface.

22 The use according to claim 20, wherein the surface is in or on the body including skin, open wounds and nasal and other passages.

23 The use according to claim 22, wherein the surface is on the hands.

24 The use of PMD in a household product such as a detergent, cleanser or cream to provide antiseptic properties.

25 A sterile surgical scrub solution which comprises PMD as the or one of the antiseptics therein.

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